

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE COMMISSION INSTITUTES FORMAL
PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING JUDGE RODNEY E. NELSON

The Commission on Judicial Performance has instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning Judge Rodney E. Nelson of the Los Angeles County Superior Court. The commencement of formal proceedings is not a determination of judicial misconduct. The formal proceedings concern allegations that the judge suffers from a disability that seriously interferes with the performance of his judicial duties and that is or is likely to become permanent within the meaning of article VI, section 18 of the California Constitution providing for the retirement of a judge

In accordance with the rules that govern Commission proceedings, a hearing will be conducted by Special Masters appointed by the Supreme Court. At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. Judge Nelson is represented by attorney Edward P. George, Jr., in Long Beach, California.

Following completion of the hearing, the Special Masters will provide the Commission with a report containing findings with respect to the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to present their views on the report to the Commission through briefing and argument. If the Commission determines that charges are proved by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to remove, censure, publicly admonish, or privately discipline the judge. Charges that the Commission determines are not proved will be dismissed. A determination by the Commission to remove, censure, or admonish a judge is subject to discretionary review by the Supreme Court upon petition by the judge.

The Notice of Formal Proceedings is available for public inspection at the Commission office. A copy of the Notice of Formal Proceedings is also posted on the Commission's Web site at www.cjp.ca.gov (under "Press Releases"). Judge Nelson's Answer to the notice is presently due December 22, 2005. Upon filing, Judge Nelson's Answer will be made available for public inspection.

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The Commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The Chairperson is Marshall B. Grossman, Esq., of Los Angeles, California.